

In ancient times the Greeks celebrated the Eleusinian mysteries with wonderful magnificence. The ceremonies took place at Eleusis, the home of Demeter, where the great benefactor had first worshipped. The goddess of grain. This was the great religious event of the year, and the celebration, which took place early in the autumn, lasted for several days. The concluding rites were most solemn, in which the worshippers were permitted to taste the sacred symbols of the goddess, and finally amid profound silence the priest cut down a living plant of grain.

At a later period the Romans celebrated great agricultural festivals both in the spring at planting time and in the autumn at harvest time. At these celebrations the people marched in great processions around the fields imploring the favor of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, upon the growing crops. In the cities the people worshipped at the temple of Ceres, offering sacrifices of honey and grain. Like the Greek celebrations, this ceremony lasted for several days, terminating with elaborate games.

The autumn ceremonies were of a thanksgiving nature and the first fruits of the harvest were brought as an offering to the goddess. The ceremony was performed by women, and so sacred was this office that a fast of more than a week was required by those who officiated. It was from these ceremonies that our word *cereal* is derived.

At the first part of the celebration of the yearly festival of the Passover the Israelites brought the first sheaf of the harvest as an offering to Jehovah, and after the harvest was gathered came the festival of Pentecost or harvest feast, when with great thanksgiving the leavened bread was brought before the Lord, really dedicating the harvest to God, the giver of every good gift.

In China, since 2700 B. C., the ceremony of rice planting has been celebrated, either the Emperor or an appropriate Government official sowing the rice which is witnessed by a number of the people as can gather at the ceremony.

In America the Pilgrims were saved from starvation by Indian corn, and corn, therefore, was always in the minds of these people who established our Thanksgiving Day on this autumn festival of humble thanksgiving to God for His merciful deliverance from famine.

Corn should, for the reason stated, be liberally used in Thanksgiving decorations, particularly for wall coverings at the back of the pulpit, over the altar rail or around pillars. At the house pumpkins can be piled, although pumpkins are quite scarce about New York this season. Squash can be used with pumpkins or in place of them; any other vegetables are suitable, first carefully washed including turnips, carrots and parsnips. These are of

light color and will show from a distance, while beets are quite dark and cannot be seen by people at a distance. With the vegetables work in greens; spruce hedges and used liberally. Evergreen boughs will be useful, also dried leaves of oak trees to which the dried leaves still cling. Flowers should be used as freely as possible in the decorations. A little care in combining the flowers and vegetables will make very attractive decorations.

OUR IDEAS TAKING ROOT.

Propagating Small Fruits and Shrubs.

Years ago we recommended the use of hydrated lime lightly sprinkled over lawns late in the autumn and early winter. Now the Agricultural Department recommends the same practice.

Years ago also we recommended the simple method of propagating many woody plants, and finally horticultural and agricultural journals are advising this practice with some few plants. The old method was to take cuttings in August or September, tie them in small bundles and bury them tip down with the butt ends two or three inches below the surface. The butt ends callus, and the cuttings are then taken up and set out in rows the next spring.

The same method is used for cuttings made during winter, which are buried in sand in a cellar until spring, when they are set out in rows in the open ground.

Cuttings of woody plants are also made during summer and inserted in sand in cold frames which are kept closed until the cuttings callus and roots start.

Many woody plants and shrubs such as raspberries, blackberries, currants, strong growing roses, willows, &c., will root readily if planted directly in rows in the garden.

With a spade cut a trench by inserting the spade down to its full length and throw out the dirt on the opposite side. Fill up the trench with the earth that has been removed, leaving the trench four inches deep. Set the cuttings two inches apart, butts down, about two inches protruding above the ground. Fill up the trench, pressing the earth firmly about the cuttings with the foot. Do not allow the earth to dry out, and in the spring most of the cuttings will root and sprout. They can be left in the trenches until the leaves fall in autumn, when they can be transplanted where they are to remain.

Take cuttings always from new growth, making a clean, square cut just below a bud.

AUTUMN TREE PLANTING.

November is a good month for transplanting deciduous trees. Land well adapted to trees is often wet to be planted early in the spring. In dry, well swept places spring planting is best.

Vegetation is more active in the autumn than in the spring and consequently there is more evaporation in the autumn. To be successful autumn planting trees must be supplied with plenty of moisture or protection from drying winds and sun. Naturally moist ground, damp weather or watering are required.

Cover the ground around the trees or plants with leaves, straw or manure to prevent alternate freezing and thawing causing the plants to heave, especially in wet, heavy soils.

Tests made at the Missouri Agricultural Station resulted in Jonathan apple trees planted in the autumn making twice as good growth as those planted the following spring. Every cherry tree planted in the autumn lived, while only a third of those planted in the summer survived the dry weather.

Grapevines do especially well when planted in the autumn, even late in November, when treated as recommended for trees.

TREATMENT OF AMARYLLIS.

Amaryllis bulbs should be placed in damp moss as soon as they are received from the dealer, in a temperature of about 50 degrees, near a window. Watch them until growth starts, when they should be potted in six inch pots for ordinary sized bulbs.

The best soil to use is turfy loam enriched with well rotted manure to which a little sand should be added to insure good drainage and prevent packing of the soil. Most of the bulb should be above the top of the soil.

When first potted give little water, only enough to keep the soil from drying out.

Keep the pots in a warm room near a sunny window. Increase the supply of water as the plant progresses.

TULIPS BLOOM FOR 30 YEARS.

E. H. Burson, a western New York nurseryman, is responsible for the statement that thirty-two years ago there was a group of tulips blossoming on the lawn of the old homestead, and every spring, including last spring, the same clump of bulbs has been in evidence, the bulbs never having been disturbed.

PEACH LEAF CURL READILY CONTROLLED.

Now is a good time to spray for control of peach leaf curl, according to the plant disease authorities at Cornell. The spraying must be done any time after the leaves fall in the autumn and before the buds begin to swell in the spring, but fall spraying has advantages.

Orchardists in New York last spring found that peach leaf curl was very much in evidence throughout the State. The disease is easily recognized by

the appearance of curled and deformed bright colored instead of normal leaves. A severe attack will result in the loss of the leaves and no growth of the tree itself. There will be a partial or total failure to set fruit, a general lowering of the vitality of the tree, and a subsequent failure in the production of fruit buds for the following year. Repeated loss of foliage for several years in succession means the death of the trees, especially if the trees are young. Nursery stock affected by this disease is likely to be a total loss. Even slight attacks affect orchard production.

Peach leaf curl may be controlled either by Bordeaux mixture or by lime sulphur solution. Since the lime sulphur solution diluted at the rate of one gallon to eight gallons of water will also control San Jose scale, it is more commonly used. If the scale is

not present the lime sulphur may be used at the rate of one gallon to fifteen gallons of water.

The most important factors in the control are timeliness and thoroughness of application. Infection appears to take place during the first prolonged cool rain after the buds begin to swell, and spraying after this time has not proved effective.

Spraying may be done any time after the leaves fall in the autumn and before the buds begin to swell in the spring. Experiments conducted during the past two years have shown that fall spraying is fully as effective as spring spraying. Usually also the weather and soil conditions are more favorable in the fall. It is therefore advised that the spraying be done in the fall as far as possible.

The spores of the fungus, it is thought, remain over the winter lodged in the hairs of the bud scales. This makes it necessary to wet all of the buds with the spray mixture. A fine spray applied to both sides of the tree is essential.

THE USE OF LIME.

Lime is an essential element of plant food, aiding in the conversion of decaying organic matter into humus. It forms compounds with the humic acids, which tend to prevent their being leached out of the soil.

Lime produces proper sanitary conditions, which prevents the growth of injurious bacteria, while the growth of beneficial nitrifying bacteria is encouraged. The nitrifying bacteria convert the nitric acid of the humus into a form that makes it available as plant food.

Lime tends to flocculate clay soils, rendering them more granular and porous, and aids in the liberation of potash and phosphorus from their compounds.

The presence of organic matter in the soil is important, manure or green crops turned under should be provided annually, otherwise the use of lime will eventually be harmful.

Lime is not beneficial to all crops and not all soils need lime. Spinach, lettuce, beets, celery, onions, cucumbers, cantaloupes, asparagus, cabbage, peanut, rhubarb, pea, pumpkin, bean, alfalfa, tobacco, clover, barley, wheat, oats, timothy, gooseberry, currant, quince and cherries are benefited by lime, as are many other crops.

Tomatoes, cowpeas, Concord grapes, cotton, peach, apple and pear are slightly injured by lime, according to reports of the Agricultural Department, and those really injured are radish, blackberry, black raspberry and cranberry.

THE ROSE I LIKE THE LEAST.

It is Frau Carl Druschki. Why? Because it has no refinement. It is entirely scentless, and the stems are so thickly bearded with thorns one must hold it with the shears or by its head. The petalage is objectionable, papery and dead white, and it is too big. No sentiment about it—too conspicuous. It is black hearted, for its stems always darken as it opens. The foliage is coarse also. It is a shy bloomer after June, and takes up too much space in the garden.

STUART R. OKIE, District of Columbia.

NEW HYBRID WATER LILIES.

Water lilies may be divided into two groups: (1) diurnal flowering, representatives of the two sub-groups, *Anemone* and *Brachycaeras*, and (2) nocturnal flowering, more commonly called "night bloomers," which are representatives of two *Lotus* groups.

During bright August days, flowers of the diurnal lilies will be open between 7:00 A. M. and 7:00 P. M., but if the weather is dull and cloudy they remain closed. The flowers of night bloomers open at sunset and stay open until about 10:00 o'clock the following morning, but if the weather is cloudy they will remain open during the entire day, acting the reverse of the diurnal type.

The blossoms of the nocturnal lilies

are considered by many far superior to those of the diurnal or day bloomers.

A number of experiments have been carried at the Missouri Botanical Garden in an effort to improve and fix the new type of day bloomers, the present day plants having resulted largely from insect pollination.

The *Nymphaea* capensis and its varieties, commonly found in gardens, are far from the typical species. They are the crosses resulting from insect pollination, between the blue and rose, and possibly the Egyptian *Nymphaea caerulea*, with colors ranging from darkest blue to deep pink. These being self-pollinated result in breaking up into blues, pinks and dark pinks.

The color of lilies to be planted out can be told by examining the underside of young leaves, the color which appears here usually giving

the color of the flower.

Almost eight million trees will be available for next spring's reforesting operations from the stock now in the Pennsylvania State forest nurseries.

Over half of the eight million seedlings are white pines. The following species make up the remainder: Norway spruce, 1,013,000; Scotch pine, 1,233,000; pitch pine, 762,000; European larch, 436,000; Japanese larch, 34,000; sugar maple, 12,000; Douglas fir, 4,000. Fifteen bushels of black cherry seeds were planted last spring in the hope of raising trees which would produce both timber and bird food, but because of unfavorable weather conditions the crop was an almost complete failure.

Last year private individuals planted 1,500,000 trees furnished by the department. This year enough trees to meet all demands will be available for free public distribution. The only restriction is that they must be used for reforesting and not for shade or ornamental planting.

Trees are shipped only in lots of 500 or more.

At the autumn exhibition of the National Rose Society in England a handsome yellow hybrid tea rose named "Christine" was exhibited. It was raised by Samuel McGredy, of Sonoma, Portadown, Ireland. The color is reported to be very beautiful and the shape of the flower remarkable. It was awarded a gold medal.

Baking and steaming are the best methods of cooking potatoes and the second method requires less fuel. To get the most value from boiled potatoes leave their skins on; do not soak in water but start at once in boiling water.

Nine-tenths of the roadsides in the rural districts of New York State are entirely devoid of trees.

Apple butter is made by boiling down fresh sweet cider to about half the original quantity and to this is added sugar and spices, such as cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, and the whole is then boiled, with occasional stirring, down to butter, which will equal about one-third of the original quantity of cider.

The grape is the most ancient fruit of which we have authentic record, and is referred to in ancient history as a name given to many kinds of fruit, but there can be no doubt as to the character of the grape. "Noah planted a vineyard and made wine with which he was drunken."

Try thoroughly soaked lime as a top dressing on the lawn this fall or winter. Several doses give the best results, and one pound to each thirty square feet of lawn will be sufficient.

From 1910 to 1914 Maine averaged 216 bushels of potatoes to the acre. While New York's average annual production was larger than Maine's for the years given, the New York farmer raised only an average of 88 bushels an acre.

Average cows do not pay. The State College of Agriculture at Ithaca has issued "The Dairy Herd," a new bulletin giving information concerning dairy cows and herd management. It will be sent free on request to any resident of New York State.

Clinker tongs are the newest aid for the furnace tender, and they are a real aid. Clinker tongs large to pass through the grate and too hard to break up are easily removed with this instrument through the furnace door. The hands are protected by a metal screen and the clinkers can be handled comfortably until deposited in the ash can.

Roses on their own roots are the favorites in England.

ERADICATING WEEDS.

Weeds are not bad for gardens if promptly hoed out. The hoeing produces a soil mulch, which conserves moisture and aids in producing an abundant crop. Few gardeners, however, are thankful for weeds.

Witch grass, *Panicum capillare*, is one of the worst garden pests. Get after it early in the spring when the seeds are germinating and it may then be rooted out without much difficulty. If it has become established, established it fairly defies the hoe, the rake and the cultivator together.

Buds are constantly starting from the roots under ground and a lusty plant will soon spring up from an insignificant piece of stem left in the earth. It can be destroyed only by repeatedly digging it out with a sharp hoe in dry weather, allowing it to wither in the hot sun. If the weather is wet, it must be carried away from the garden, or it will take root and start again in the most determined manner. The Warren hoe is best to

use. The blade is triangular in shape and comes to a sharp point at the bottom.

Many of the weeds with which we are most familiar are not Americans. The daisy, the dandelion, the purslane and the Russian thistle have all been imported from Europe. The dandelion is, however, often served for "greens" and the purslane is used on the table too.

Purslane is a signal to those who know the code. It means that the soil is poor and dry. On lawns manure should be applied freely in the fall, and in the spring the grass should be raked over and more seed sown, the earlier the better. Then the purslane will be crowded out. If the condition is bad, though, it may be necessary to spade up the lawn and work in a liberal amount of decayed manure to supply humus and to enable the soil to hold water.

Mrs. ARTHUR LENOX.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

HUCKLEBERRIES.

The National Pie Fruit.

By JOEL SHOMAKER.

"Huckleberries—15 cents per pound." That line appeared on the market place of daily newspapers published near the huckleberry fields of western Washington about the 15th of August and announced the opening of the season for those delicious little wild fruits eagerly sought by many people as most excellent pie fillers.

The huckleberry crop is reported as promising better returns than for several years and the harvest is expected to last until after the Christmas holidays. Thousands of men, women and children find regular employment in picking and shipping huckleberries, and entire communities engage in the work that insures daily income four months in the year.

A city café manager, catering to select Sunday diners of numerous well-to-do patrons, informs me that he has never been able to bake and have on hand enough huckleberry pies to satisfy the demand. Although the apple and mince meat have many friends who insist on finishing dinner by eating one or the other, the huckleberry presents superior claims for recognition.

Canneries offer every day markets at about five cents a pound for all the huckleberries that may be consigned to them, and it is said that probably 200 tons of the berries go into the cans of commerce, operated in the Puget Sound country, every season. Those fruits are generally shipped to Eastern cities and bought by wholesalers to be made into jams, jellies and other delicacies, or used for supplying juices to the soft drink caterers.

The city markets for huckleberries vary in prices, beginning at fifteen cents and dropping to five during the weeks when the heaviest shipping is on, then jumping back to ten or twelve cents a pound just before Christmas. Then the children are in school, the rains disturb picking and the supply of berries does not equal the demand.

Huckleberries grow on small, shrubby bushes, of the evergreen type, and are of a distinct class of wild fruit known as *Vaccinium*. Sometimes they are called blueberries, then again they are termed whortleberries, and in some sections are recognized as huckleberries. The fruits are generally black or blue, but one variety, more deciduous than the others, is red.

It is claimed that huckleberries are native to sour or acid soils, and the berries and places to grow in many States where forests once covered the earth. They are found in the Puget Sound region of western Washington, growing to perfection where the loggers have taken off the timber and burned over the surface. Some bushes reach a height of ten feet, when protected by shade, but ordinarily they range around two to four feet, especially when in the open and bearing fruit.

Indian legends tell us that before white men entered the forests and made commerce of the timber, the natives considered it a duty to burn over certain sections of woods, where huckleberries grew, in order to produce fruits, grasses and feed for bears and deer and other animals, so that the redmen would have good hunting grounds during the winter. The animals were feeding on the burned over spots, eating berries and picking grasses and other vegetation.

When doing business in a city near the Colville Indian reservation of Washington I was attracted to a group of Indians carrying baskets of berries and choice large blueberries of excellent quality. The redmen became very quiet when asked where those berries came from, simply pointing to the mountains, and were ready to answer quickly and say "Seventy cents a gallon" when asked about the price.

We pick and ship something like two and a half tons a year from our nursery, the berries being about evenly mixed with blue and black varieties. They go on the Seattle market as huckleberries, and sell through commission houses at about twelve cents a pound. About one-fourth of the returns must be paid out for boxes, freight, cartage and commission, the latter charge being 15 per cent.

A good picker can harvest an average of fifty pounds of huckleberries a day, provided conditions are favorable and the distance from the base of operations to the home is not too great. Some pickers boast of gathering as much as ninety pounds in a day, but the ordinary man or woman going to the berry fields collects an average of probably thirty to thirty-five pounds of huckleberries a day.

Huckleberries have not been planted and cultivated as other fruits except in a very few cases where people have taken up plants and set in the gardens. The only place in the United States where as much as one acre has been transplanted and cultivated is blueberries is said to be in Indiana.

According to official Government reports the Indiana acre planted to blueberries has been producing an average of 1,741 quarts a year for six years, the fruit selling for an average of 14½ cents per quart, the total profit being estimated at \$116 to the acre. The expense of weeding, cultivating and irrigation of that acre are placed at \$20 and the picking represents an expense of five cents a quart.

I have been collecting and transplanting wild huckleberries for six years and find that they are easily transplanted and that they are of quick growth and responsive to cultivation. In my first experiments I watched the bushes growing along roads where loggers had dragged tim-

ber by donkey engines, cutting up the soil surface, and in such places the blueberries attained almost double size over those standing out in uncultivated places.

My experience favors collecting and transplanting wild huckleberries during the autumn, although I dig and plant them from September until June. The best way to get a successful start of huckleberry bushes is to dig the small seedlings, when they are 6 to 15 inches high, and transplant where they can get plenty of moisture and shade while the new rootlets are forming.

I take up the plants when the earth is moist, pack in bundles and cover the roots with wet moss, to prevent drying out, as the main secret in transferring almost every wild plant from its native habitat to the gardens of civilization is keeping the roots moist from the time of taking up to date of transplanting and then furnishing sufficient moisture for the forming of new rootlets.

Huckleberry bushes are fine ornamental plants, carrying brilliant green leaves throughout the season and presenting evidences of life and cheerfulness. The flowers are richly fragrant and the fruits are both ornamental and profitable. I transplant the bushes in the open ground and in paper pots with noticeable success and predict that many acres of land will be devoted to growing huckleberries in coming years, while homes, gardens and lawns will be made more beautiful by the presence of those magnificent shrubs of the forest.

FAVORITE ROSES.

In the Rose Contest the following were the favorites:

Frau Karl Druschki, 10.
Mrs. John Laing, 6.
Groses an Tepilis, 4.
Kilianer, 2.
Tausendsohlen, 2.
Captain Christy, 2.
Radiance, 1.
La France, 1.
Jonker J. L. Mock, 2.
Caroline Testout, 2.
Silver Moon, 2.
Lady Huntington, 2.
Paul Neyron, 1.
Conrad F. Meyer.
Harrison's Yellow.
American Pillar.
Carl Hayward.
Ophelia.
American Beauty.
Gen. Jacquemont.
Jeanette Hill (Wm. R. Smith).
Madame Bary.
Erna Teschenhoff.
Kilianer Brilliant.
Soul d'or.
Magna Charta.
Prince of Bulgaria.
Clothilde Souper.
Hermosa.
Kaiserin Aug. Victoria.
Pharos.
Mrs. Aaron Ward.
Dr. Van Fleet.
Duchess de Brabant.
Marshall P. Wilder.

The figures after the names indicate in hundreds, the number of letters received. Those without numbers received 100 or more letters in their praise, but less than 200. None were listed where less than 100 letters were received.

Prize awards will be published as soon as the more important letters have been printed.

Eat apples and keep young. Apples are good food and good medicine. The sugars and acids of fruits require no digestion, but are ready for immediate absorption and supply the body with nutriment in the most available form and aid the body in getting rid of poisonous acid wastes. Eat plenty of uncooked fruit and avoid doctors' and druggists' bills.

Filices can be kept from breeding in manure piles by the addition of a small quantity of cyanamide, which kills the larvae and at the same time adds to the fertilizing value of the manure.

The sense of direction in migratory birds is as marvelous as it is mysterious. The familiar inhabitants of our dooryard martin boxes return the next year to these same boxes, though meanwhile they have visited Brazil.

Charcoal is one of the most essential articles of food for poultry.

Clean the poultry house once a week at least. It is useless to spray and powder a dirty house.

For winter egg production the poultry house must be warm and dry, well lighted and ventilated without draughts.

Keep the hens moving, making them work for all they eat by throwing the feed in cut straw or other suitable material.

Feed a variety of grain, wheat, oats, barley, cracked corn and buckwheat. Mix them together before feeding.

Prof. J. E. Rice of Cornell advises poultrymen to buy two different colored leg bands and to place one color on the shank of the pullet which lays before it is six months old, as there will be the most money in these.

The following year place a different

colored band on hens which are now a year old and which continue to lay after the first of September, as hens which moult early in July or August are invariably poor producers.

By this system there are one set of hens having two leg bands, one set with one leg band, which lay before they are six months old, and another set which failed to lay at that time but continued to lay after the first of September.

The undersides are fattened and sold as soon as possible.

Green cut bone with a little lean meat on it is the best kind of animal food for winter layers. This is required to take the place of bugs and worms that hens pick up during warm weather.

Bone and meat for hens should be reasonably fresh. Feed lightly on the start, as overfeeding at first may cause trouble. An ounce to a fowl a day or every other day will be sufficient.

In the fifth international egg laying contest at Storrs, Conn., which closed October 29, Wyandottes were first with an average of 169.4. White Leghorns were second with an average of 165.4. Plymouth Rocks were third with an average of 160.4. The heavy breeds are the best general purpose fowl.

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Rats cause a large percentage of fires. Rats and mice destroy millions of dollars worth of grain, food, clothing, manufacturers' raw materials, whole orchards are destroyed, etc.

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